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Commissioner Jane Henney, M.D.
U.S. Food & Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

September 25, 2000

Dear Dr. Henney,

I am writing to urge you to rescind approvals and to ban human antibiotics from livestock use. Many antibiotics, including penicillin, tetracycline, and erythromycin, used primarily to treat human diseases, are also used in sub-therapeutic doses in animal feed to promote growth. Mounting evidence suggests that this sub-therapeutic use creates the perfect climate to promote the increase of antibiotic resistance. The more antibiotics we use in livestock production, the less effective they will be at treating human illnesses.

In 1997, the World Health Organization recommended that antibiotics used to treat humans should not be used to promote animal growth. In 1998, the European Union banned all growth promoting uses of antibiotics used in human medicine. In July 1998, the National Academy of Science, in a report prepared at the request of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration, concluded, "there is a link between the use of antibiotics in food animals, the development of bacterial resistance to these drugs, and human disease." How can you ignore these findings?

The risking of human life for the sake of fattening chickens and cows has gone on long enough. Please protect the health of my family and yours, by immediately banning the use of medically significant antibiotics as livestock feed additives.

Sincerely,

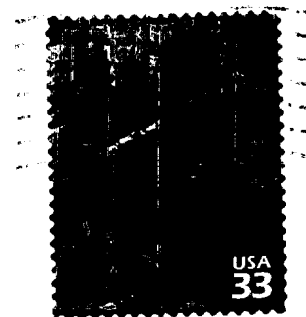


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